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DEPARTMENT OF PESTICIDE REGULATION PESTICIDE REGISTRATION AND EVALUATION COMMITTEE Meeting Minutes – May 16, 2003

Attn: The next PREC meeting scheduled for July 18, 2003 is canceled. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on September 19, 2003 at 10:00 am.

Committee Members/Alternates in Attendance:

Joel Trumbo, Department of Fish and Game (DFG)
Claudia Moore, Integrated Waste Management Board (IWMB)
Rebecca Sisco, University of California, IR-4 Program
Dave Luscher, Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA)
Lynn Baker, Air Resources Board (ARB)
Anna Fan, Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA)
Tobi Jones, Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR)

Visitors in Attendance:

Romel Pascual, California Environmental Protection Agency (Cal/EPA)
Michael Benjamin, Air Resources Board
Roberta Firoved, California Rice Commission
Andre de Fontaine, Cal/EPA
John Pearson, Compliance Service
David Elliott, Environmental micro Analysis
Brian Bret, Dow AgroSciences
Kevin Keefer, California Plant Health Association
John Sanders, DPR
Sue Chung, DPR
David Haskell, DPR
Wynetta Kollman, DPR

1. Introductions and Committee Business – Tobi Jones, Chairperson
 - a. About 19 people attended the meeting.
 - b. There was one correction made to the minutes of the previous meeting held on March 21, 2003. Anna Fan's name was added to the list as having attended the meeting as a committee member.

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2. Update on the Inventory and Reduction Options for Volatile Organic Compounds in Pesticides to Meet Air Quality Objectives – Randy Segawa, DPR

DPR and ARB are working to track and reduce volatile organic compound (VOC) emissions from pesticides because they are precursors to ozone. Under a State Implementation Plan, DPR is required to reduce VOC emissions from pesticides by 20 percent between 1990 and 2005 in five nonattainment areas: Sacramento Metro, San Joaquin Valley, Ventura, South Coast, and Southeast Desert. DPR estimates VOC emissions based on the percentage VOC in each product and pesticide use report data. Currently, two of the five nonattainment areas are not meeting the interim reduction goals. Fumigants are the highest contributors to VOC emissions in all nonattainment areas. The San Joaquin Valley will need additional reductions whether or not the 20 percent goal for pesticides is achieved by 2005. DPR and others are discussing options to reduce VOC emissions from pesticides.

3. DPR's Determination on Clopyralid Under AB 2356 – Tobi Jones

Tobi reviewed the requirements of AB 2356 for DPR's Director to make a determination by April 1, 2003 on uses of clopyralid. She provided the committee a copy of the determination and discussed the next steps. DPR has determined that the golf course use of clopyralid lawn and turf products does not have a likelihood of resulting in persistent residues in compost, while other lawn and turf uses do not meet that standard. DPR will move ahead to develop regulations to impose restrictions on those uses.

4. Completion of Lompoc Air Monitoring Project – Randy Segawa, DPR

Lompoc is a small city in Santa Barbara County and is downwind of an agricultural area. As part of an investigation by DPR and other agencies about pesticide use and community health, DPR conducted air monitoring for 31 pesticides. During the monitoring in 2000, 27 pesticides were detected in one or more samples. DPR, with assistance from OEHHA and DHS, evaluated exposures from individual as well as the combined pesticides. Measured concentrations did not exceed health-screening levels either individually or combined. The concentrations measured in Lompoc were lower than measured in other parts of the state.

5. Surface Water Monitoring Plan for Rice Pesticides – John Sanders, DPR; Roberta Firoved, CA Rice Commission

John informed the committee that for the past 20 years DPR has been responsible to the Central Valley Regional Board for mitigating the effects of rice pesticides on the water quality of the Sacramento Valley. DPR is now transitioning responsibility to the rice industry. DPR will still be responsible for exercising its authority to mitigate adverse pesticide effects on water quality as needed, but the industry will be responsible for water monitoring, analysis of data, and reporting to the Regional Board. DPR will advise the Regional Board and rice industry on the water quality issues and act collaboratively with the Regional Board to address the water quality issues caused by pesticides.

Roberta informed the committee that DPR has worked collaboratively with the rice industry for the past 13 years to monitor for select rice pesticides in the Sacramento River waterways. Currently, DPR is transferring the responsibility for monitoring to the California Rice Commission (CRC). This means that the CRC will pick up DPR's portion of monitoring and analysis expenses, above the monitoring expenses already paid by industry. Also, the CRC will be responsible for making recommendations to the Regional Water Board (RWB) and for completing the year-end report.

This year, the CRC worked collaboratively with DPR and the RWB staff to craft program recommendations. The recommendations include increased permit conditions such as a Mandatory Bolero/Abolish Stewardship Meeting. The monitoring sites were increased from three to five locations. Also, a Storm Event Work Group was formed to evaluate the May 2002 storm event and research future mitigation measures. All of this is a tremendous challenge for industry to absorb without the options to increase the budget and/or hire more staff.

6. Environmental Justice Implementation – Romel Pascual, Assistant Secretary for Environmental Justice, Cal/EPA; and Veda Federighi, DPR Representative

Romel Pascual, Assistant Secretary for Environmental Justice at Cal/EPA, provided the Committee with a brief presentation on the progress and status of environmental justice efforts at Cal/EPA. Romel outlined the eight pieces of environmental justice-related legislation signed into law since 1999. The legislation outlines the procedural foundation of Cal/EPA activities, and mandates several programmatic responsibilities such as enforcement, data collection and research, public participation, and others (Public Resources Code 71110-14). Cal/EPA's efforts involve the development of an Agencywide Environmental Justice Strategy (as mandated in legislation - SB 89 (2000) as well as a mission statement on environmental justice. To assist Cal/EPA's efforts, an Interagency Working Group on Environmental Justice was established (comprised of Boards, Departments, and Office Directors, and the Governors Office of Planning and Research), and a 17-member external Advisory Committee on Environmental Justice was also established. It will be through the work of both groups that will form the substance of Cal/EPA's Environmental Justice Strategy. Currently, the Advisory Committee has been engaged in the development of environmental justice recommendations to the Secretary, and the Interagency Working Group which outlines elements of an effective environmental justice program. It is anticipated that the environmental justice recommendations will be completed by September 2003. Additionally, Romel described ongoing staff training on environmental justice to raise staff awareness on the issue, and the establishment of an Environmental Justice Small Grants program intended to assist and support community groups, non-profit organizations, and other entities on environmental justice community-level projects. Romel concluded his presentation by offering observations on future challenges and opportunities with respect to statewide environmental justice implementation, including the need to ensure meaningful public participation.

Veda briefly discussed DPR's draft Environmental Justice Implementation Plan that is currently out for public comment. She described the elements of the plan that cover DPR's approaches to environmental justice.

7. Agenda Items for Next Meeting and Location –Tobi Jones, DPR

The next meeting will be held on Friday, July 18, 2003, in the Sierra Hearing Room located on the second floor of the Cal/EPA building.

8. Closing Comments – Tobi Jones, DPR

The meeting was adjourned.